

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 1, 2014

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were David White, Catherine Garnett, Charles Tirone, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Michelle Durocher, Janine White, Mike Nonni, and Susan Chapnick of the Commission. Nathaniel Stevens, of the Commission, was not present. Also present were Samit Chhabra, Bruce Whetle, Mary White and Ester Lwebuga from MWRA and Shahir M. Shahir from Green International.

7:45pm – Commission Business:

Connors/Coleman motioned to approve the **4/3 minutes** with edits; motion passed with Ms. Chapnick abstaining.

Connors/Coleman motioned to approve the **4/17 minutes** with edits; motion passed with Ms. Chapnick abstaining (because she was not in attendance).

The **2014 Town Meeting** has started and Community Preservation Act has yet to come up for vote, but possibly on Monday. The Waterbodies Warrant Article is also later in the Budget section of the voting.

Ms. Garnett reported on the progress to remedy the erosion problem at **Symmes Woods and a meeting with Town Counsel that afternoon**. The plan the Commission previously approved cannot be implemented at the site. The new plan the area was not available for review at that time. The Commission will draft a letter of recommendations to the ARB after review of the new plan.

Ms. Garnett reported on the work to renovate **Spy Pond Park**. There will be a site meeting on 5/9 with the Park Commission. Stopping the erosion will be the priority. The Park Commissioners will meet on 5/14 to review the results of the site walk.

Ms. Beckwith presented an idea to revamp the Walking Book as a possible **ACROSS Arlington** set of walks. She showed a draft map to the Commission.

8pm **Notice of Intent** – Mystic River Oil spill and cleanup

Ms. Chapnick reported on her review of the closing document for the 21E process. The report did not address the questions she had. The report is a Class A2 RAO which means that contamination remains underneath the paved area near the rotary. While the sediment benchmarks in the report may not be appropriate, the result may not come out any different, that the area is not any more contaminated than background levels. There is an anomalous measurement in the August samples that needs to be explained.

The Mystic River Watershed Association may pursue “loss of use” funds from BRW as

natural resource damages.

The Commission will redraft the questions from Ms. Chapnick and submit them to Clean Harbors for a written response before closing this hearing.

Coleman/Connors motioned to continue the hearing to May 15th at 8:15pm; motion passed unanimously.

8:15pm Request for Determination of Applicability – 26 Spy Pond Parkway, shed

Mr. Chhabra, the applicant, presented his proposal to install a shed within the Buffer Zone of the shoreline of Spy Pond. The shed will be approximately 40-50 feet from the shore, placed on a gravel base, and will store gardening materials and bikes. The shed is built off-site and delivered by truck. The truck will access the shed site by the northern side of the house.

JWhite/Tirone motioned that even though the work is within the Buffer Zone, it will not alter the area and no Notice of Intent is required; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Determination – Lot E Dothan St

Tirone/Chapnick motioned to continued the hearing to 5/15 at 8pm to allow the completion of the site inspection and receipt of the report by the peer review consultant; motion passed unanimously.

8:45pm Discussion - ACROSS Lexington

Mr. White presented the new sign designs that include cooperation with Arlington. The Commission liked the new design. A recommendation was made to ask ACROSS Lexington to add “entering *land* owned by the Town of Arlington” onto signs where they cross into Arlington town property. Mr. White agreed to follow up on this suggestion and communicate this with Karen Mullins in Lexington. [This was done via email on 5/2.] Note however that the Arlington Selectmen are the body which needs to give formal approval for this use of Town land.

9pm Discussion – MWRA water pipe at Brattle St

Ms. Mary White of the MWRA, presented alterations of the work on the water pipes underneath Brattle St, to include replacing both pipes at once. There will be no storage of soil onsite. The full width of the street will be repaved, milled and overlayed. Mr. Tirone asked that the catchbasins be cleaned prior to any dewatering, and siltsacks be installed with blocks behind of wattle, sandbag or strawbale. The Commission should also be notified prior to construction.

The whole project will take 2 years, but the area near Mill Brook will only take 1 week to 10 days at most.

Tirone/Connors motioned to approve this additional work as a minor modification?; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator